

**Town of Belmont
Capital Budget Committee
Belmont High School, Room 145
Monday Evening, April 24, 2006, 6:45 p.m.**

The Belmont Capital Budget Committee met on the evening of Monday, April 24, 2006, in Room 145 of the Belmont High School just prior to the first session of the Belmont Annual Town Meeting and just after a meeting of the Belmont Warrant Committee. Mrs. Brusch called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. John Bowe, M. Patricia Brusch, Mark F. Clark, John Conte, Jennifer M. Fallon and Anne Marie Mahoney were present. Barbara Hagg, Town Accountant and staff liaison to the Capital Budget Committee, joined the meeting as soon as she completed her duties to the Warrant Committee. Angelo Firenze and Thomas Younger, the Belmont Town Administrator, had previously sent word that they would be attending a meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Brusch announced that there were no items pertaining to the Annual Town Meeting that required action by the Committee, but there is one item on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting called for April 26 that requires action by the Committee. That item is the purchase of accounting software. The final price for that item is now known. It is \$811,000. [This price includes both the basic accounting software -- \$700,000 -- and software license upgrades for all PC's and servers -- \$111,000 -- that will allow the new software (and the Town's geographic system -- commonly referred to as "GIS") to be used.] Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend favorable action on the purchase.

Mrs. Brusch reported that late that afternoon Joel Mooney, Chairman of the Town Hall Complex Building Committee, had sent an email to members of the Building Committee that indicated that that Committee still had nearly \$100,000 in funds available to it in its budget. Mrs. Brusch pointed out that this budget balance would allow the Building Committee, without resorting to a funds transfer, to install snow guards on the Homer Building, address the doors on the ground floor (east side) of the Town Hall and install signage required by a handicap variance obtained by the Building Committee. Mrs. Brusch reported that, contrary to the information available at the Committee's last meeting, the Historic District Commission had not authorized fiberglass doors for the Town Hall. Assuming that the Building Committee is now in a position to address whatever needs doing on the Town Hall doors, the Capital Budget Committee may re-allocate the \$10,000 which had been tentatively set aside for those doors.

Mrs. Brusch reported that Thomas Younger, the Town Administrator, will investigate whether the Electric Light Department will repair lighting for the High School driveway without charge. She also reported that the spare pumper operated by the Fire Department had failed and that spare parts were going to be difficult to obtain. After discussion, the Committee confirmed that the pumper/brush truck that it had already considered would be used as a spare pumper. Mrs. Brusch reported that the Fire Chief had not wanted to change his priority listing for the Capital Budget Committee as a result of the failure of the existing spare pumper. During the discussion of the pumper/brush truck, Ms. Fallon remarked that the Town should explore lease/purchase as a means of financing the acquisition of the pumper/brush truck. Mrs. Brush also reported that a

decision has been made to fund the fiber optic network with free cash that would otherwise have been carried over to the operating budget for FY2007. That step will be taken at the Special Town Meeting called for April 26, 2006.

Assuming that the Town Hall Complex Building Committee will fund whatever needs doing with regard to the ground floor doors of the Town Hall and that Mr. Younger is successful in obtaining repairs for the high school driveway lights from the Electric Light Department, this Committee may have \$85,000 to reallocate at its May 4 meeting. Ms. Fallon suggested that some consideration should be given to the need at the library for improvement in the circulation area and further suggested that additional shelving or cabinets might help in the meantime if the major reconfiguration of the circulation area cannot be undertaken immediately.

The Committee will deal with accumulated minutes, review a draft of its report as well as work to complete its FY2007 Capital Budget recommendation at the meeting which is called for 8:00 p.m. on May 4. Mrs. Bruschi believes that committee reports will be mailed to Town Meeting Members on May 12. That implies that all material must be ready on May 11.

At 7:04 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Clark